



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

November 12, 2008

Ms. Catherine George Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4353

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD
2008 NOV 21 P 5:14

Reference: Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R9 – 2008 – 0033

Dear Ms. Hagan:

The City of San Diego (City) is an interested party for the hearing on the above referenced matter scheduled for February 11, 2009. The City's interests are impacted by the actions and activities of Amatek, Inc. Contamination from the site has impacted groundwater beneath the El Cajon Valley Basin which is part of the greater Santee/El Monte Basin. The El Cajon Valley Basin and Santee/El Monte Basin are tributary to the San Diego River. The City, as established in the case of *City of San Diego v. Cuyamaca Water District* (1930) 209 Cal. 105, has a prior and preferential Pueblo Water Right to the waters of the San Diego River and its tributaries including groundwater.

The City is writing in support of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's action. The City considers groundwater an important local water resource and, in fact, is supplied with water from a municipal well in the El Cajon Valley Basin less than two miles from the site. The City is exploring the feasibility of additional groundwater development projects in several basins, and may elect to do so in the El Cajon Valley Basin at some point in the future.

Thank you, the staff and Board members of the RWQCB for taking constructive and appropriate action to help remediate and protect one of our most valued resources. Please feel free to contact me at (619) 533-4112 or Gregory Cross at (619) 533-4235 regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Marsi A. Steirer
Water Department Deputy Director

gc



Water Department

600 B Street, Suite 600, MS 906 • San Diego, CA 92101
Tel (619) 533-7595 Fax (619) 533-5325